# 2022

## Number 2

NCNA *Journal*

# NCNA Journal

Volume 48 2022 Number 2

**North Carolina and the Stone Mountain Commemorative Half Dollar!**

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# *Writing for the* NCNA Journal

The *NCNA Journal* welcomes original articles on all facets of numismatics; articles related to North Carolina numismatics are particularly encouraged. Submission of previously published articles will be considered on a case-by-case basis; prior publication source should be noted at time of submission. The NCNA reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, format and/or content.

Digital copies of submissions are preferred; they should be sent via email to: ghcheek@earthlink.net. Typewritten articles are also accepted; they should be sent to: Greg Cheek, PO Box 185, Yadkinville, NC 27055.

The inclusion of images in support of a submitted article is very much appreciated. Digital images of 300 dpi (or higher) are preferred. Files in JPG format are preferred. Please contact the editor before sending images in other formats. Questions regarding images should be directed to the editor. ***PLEASE NOTE: The copyright for all images submitted must be owned by the submitter; submission of images downloaded from the internet without prior permission is not acceptable.***

Authors of articles submitted are eligible for the NCNA's **Bason Literary Award**. It is given each year in recognition of outstanding contributions to the *NCNA Journal* and/or other numismatic publications.

# *Advertising in the Journal*

Advertisement artwork should be submitted in "camera ready" digital form (300 dpi or greater) whenever possible; a clean business card can be submitted for one-third page ad requests. A $35 charge will be incurred if the NCNA is required to design an advertisement prior to its publication. Payment is due prior to the first insertion.

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| One-Third Page | $20 | $60 |
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**Submission Deadlines for Articles and Advertisements**

Issue 1 – February 1
Issue 2 – May 1
Issue 3 – August 1
Issue 4 – November 1

# NCNA Journal

*The Official Publication of the*
*North Carolina Numismatic Association*

Volume 48 2022 Number 2

**FEATURE ARTICLES**

Two Cents Beats Two Pennies *Paul Horner* ..... 16
Tenpō Tsūhō: A 19th Century Lesson in Inflation
*Harrison Helms* ..... 29
Explaining the Portrait on 8 Reales "Silver Dollars"
*Mark Benvenuto* ..... 41

**COLUMNS**

President's Message *Greg Cheek* ..... 4
Notes from the Editor's Desk *Greg Cheek* ..... 7
Getting to Know Your NCNA Board *Perry Siegel* ..... 8
On the Record *Bill Graves* ..... 10
Young Collector's News *Bob Pedolsky* ..... 12
Blast from the Past *Danny Freeman* ..... 32
The Ancient Guy *Perry Siegel* ..... 35

**ASSOCIATION NEWS**

News from the Secretary and Treasurer ..... 6
Show Calendar ..... 26
News from the Clubs ..... 46

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Advertising in the *NCNA Journal* ..... 2
Writing for the *NCNA Journal* ..... 2
NCNA Membership Renewal ..... 4
NCNA Membership Benefits ..... 45
NCNA Classifieds ..... 48
NCNA Officers, Board Members & Appointments ..... 50

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# President's Message

With the worst of the pandemic hopefully behind us, we are seeing more shows and clubs getting back to normal. The market remains vibrant, especially regarding rare coins, currency, and bullion products. Shows are reappearing on the calendar, with attendance remaining strong**.** With that said, most believe that 2022 offers more upside potential to collectors and dealers alike. Let's all pray that this positive trend continues.

## Remember to Renew your NCNA Membership in 2022!

We are well into 2022, and we're excited that many of you have renewed your NCNA membership. However, if you have not done so yet, it is not too late, so please **renew as soon as you can.** We want you to remain with us as a loyal member of the NCNA so we can continue to send you the NCNA Journal. Go to the NCNA website for the renewal application form. Also, checkout "News from the Secretary and Treasurer" for more information on joining the NCNA or renewing your NCNA membership.

## Call for Nominations for 2022 NCNA Awards

As we head into summer, we are already looking forward to the 2022 NCNA Convention and Show in October! Each year, at the convention, individuals are presented with awards to **recognize the contributions and achievements of outstanding individuals in the hobby**. Danny Freeman, chairs the committee which reviews nominations and selects recipients of the awards. Please review the awards below. Send your questions and nominations to Danny at ***southerngoldcoins@yahoo.com***.

***John Jay Pittman Award -*** This is the prestigious NCNA "Numismatist of the Year" award. The award is given in recognition of outstanding and enduring contributions to numismatics in North Carolina.

***Forrest & Tessie Michael Volunteer Service Award -*** This award is given in recognition of outstanding volunteer service to benefit numismatics in North Carolina through local clubs.

***Bason Literary Award -*** This award is given each year in recognition of significant contributions to numismatic education through published works.

***Ted Hendrick Memorial Dealer Award -*** This award is jointly sponsored by the Raleigh Coin Club and the NCNA, and is intended to recognize an outstanding dealer who excels in service and quality, as well a high level of ethics, energy, and enthusiasm.

***Young Numismatist of the Year Award -*** This award is given each year to a young collector (under 18) who is recognized for their outstanding contributions to the hobby, such as their leadership and engagement in their local club, passion for the hobby, and willingness to learn and help others.

By the way, don't forget about the **NCNA Young Numismatist Scholarship Program.** I hope that our young collectors and their parents will consider this great opportunity. Local clubs are encouraged to nominate deserving young club members too. With this program, the NCNA will provide one scholarship for a young numismatist to attend the 2023 ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Information about the NCNA Scholarship Program can be found on the NCNA website at ***www.NCNA.CLUB/yn-program***. Please email Bob Pedolsky, our NCNA YN Coordinator, at rpedolsky@carolina.rr.com if you have any questions regarding the scholarship application process or the program itself. **The deadline for submission of the YN Scholarship nominations for the 2023 ANA Summer Seminar is December 31st.**

The NCNA Officers and Board of Directors are ready to help with local club efforts, and always looking for opportunities to promote and attract new collectors to the hobby. Your ideas are very important to us on how to make the hobby more enjoyable and meaningful for the NCNA membership and collecting community as a whole. Feel free to share and we will put forth our best effort to address them!

I pray for your continued health and success in 2022. Happy hunting as a collector and find ways to get more involved in the hobby! Take care.

Greg Cheek, NCNA President

***About the Cover for this issue of the NCNA Journal …***

Many of us are familiar with the Stone Mountain Commemorative Half Dollar produced at the U.S Mint in 1925. However, you may not have been aware that some of these coins were counter stamped with the various states that were part of the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865. Note **"N.CAR"** and serial number **182** stamped on the reverse of the coin on the cover. This coin sold in a 2001 Heritage Auction. For more information on the subject, you can checkout Charles B. Rogers' new book, **COUNTERSTAMPED STONE MOUNTAIN HALVES.**

(***Images are courtesy of Heritage Auction Galleries, www.HA.com)***

# News From the Secretary & Treasurer

Halbert Carmichael is the NCNA Treasurer, and Bill Graves is the NCNA Secretary.

If you have questions regarding payment of your NCNA membership, please email Halbert at ***hhcarmichael@mindspring.com***. Halbert will continue to take care of all incoming membership applications/payments and other financial matters for the NCNA.

Please direct all NCNA membership renewals and payments to Halbert at following address: **Halbert Carmichael /NCNA**
**PO Box 5625**
**Raleigh, NC 27605**

Halbert will pass along your membership information to Bill Graves, as Bill maintains the NCNA membership records. Bill is also available to assist you with inquiries regarding membership status. You can send him an email at ***eaglecoinclub1@aol.com*.**

Be watchful for important updates posted by Halbert and Bill in this section of the Journal. They both want to thank all of you who have renewed your NCNA membership in 2022! **If you've not done so yet, please renew yours as soon as you can so that you'll continue to receive the NCNA Journal**.

PLEASE NOTE: Look at the MAILING ADDRESS LABEL on your JOURNAL envelope! The label shows the year that your NCNA membership dues are paid through. **If it indicates 2021 or before, your membership renewal is due now**. If it shows 2022 or after, your membership dues are good through that year.

Are you a young numismatist or do you know a young numismatist who might be interested in applying for our NCNA YN Scholarship?
If so, please contact Bob Pedolsky, our NCNA YN Coordinator at rpedolsky@carolina.rr.com.

# Notes from the Editor's Desk

Wow!!! This edition of the 2022 NCNA Journal is packed with a wide range of numismatic articles. Once again it is a pleasure to work with all of our wonderful contributors.

NCNA Secretary, Bill Graves, goes ***On the Record*** with his thoughts regarding the importance of a personal numismatic library for dealers and collectors alike.

Bob Pedolsky sent in a great article entitled ***Programs for Young Numismatists***. He has been working with young collectors for several years now, and offers up a good summary of interesting programs and scholarship opportunities of interest for the young numismatist community.

Paul Horner provides us with another great numismatic history lesson. This time, in his article, entitled ***Two Cents Beats Two Pennies***, Paul summarizes the design selection and ultimate minting of the Two Cent coin by the U.S. Mint.

We have another excellent article from Harrison Helms, one of our young numismatists. Harrison provides an interesting and timely article with a historical perspective on inflation with ***Tenpō Tsūhō: A 19th Century Lesson in Inflation.***

Danny Freeman continues his tradition of offering "something different". This time in his column, ***A Blast from the Past***, Danny reflects on the importance of observing Memorial Day, along with an interesting discussion on Ration Tokens used in the U.S. during WWII.

In the current edition of ***The Ancient Guy***, Perry Siegel writes about ***Commodus as Hercules***. Perry explores the reign of Commodus as possibly one of the worst Roman Emperors. Of course, he also provides us with some classic images to illustrate the story.

Mark Benvenuto is back with more commentary … this time in his article entitled ***Explaining the Portrait on 8 Reales "Silver Dollars"***. Mark highlights the design and history of these interesting Spanish coins from the early days of the "New World".

I hope that you'll enjoy reading these articles as much as I did! Please consider submitting one on your own favorite numismatic topic as well! Until next time – Greg

# Getting to Know Your NCNA Board

By Perry Siegel

Bill Graves was recently installed as NCNA Secretary, having served as an NCNA board member prior to that. He has already proven to be a natural fit in his new role. No surprise there, as he has numerous numismatic organization affiliations: American Numismatic Association, John Reich Society, Early American Coppers, and life memberships with both North Carolina, and South Carolina Numismatic Associations.

Bill's origins are in the South, just outside of New Orleans. He ultimately grew up in suburban Chicago, and earned his Bachelor's degree in economics from University of Illinois, and his MBA from Rutgers University. In a classic love story, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Mary! They have two grown sons, David, and Michael. Mary almost became married to a professional golfer, as Bill had a single digit handicap and had aspirations to play alongside Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer. He once received an invitation to play golf in an event sponsored by Ford Motor Company at a very private and prestigious club. Bill played in a foursome right behind Mickey Mantle, but didn't realize it until afterward in the clubhouse where Mickey was regaling everyone with his outrageous stories. While living in the Seattle area, Bill belonged to Twin Lakes Golf club and was also once paired him with Bill Russell. They possessed similar handicaps, 8 and 9, but guess who won? Yep, our secretary! One other time while playing in the Pro-Am, at Twin Lakes, Bill had Evil Knievel in his group. Fortunately, no jumps were attempted on the course that day!

Bill spent his early business career in the Chicago area, then moved from Chicago to New Jersey in the mid 1970's, where he worked in the pharmaceutical industry at Johnson & Johnson. Bill subsequently moved to Seattle, Washington on an assignment with Weyerhaeuser in their healthcare division, then relocated to Southern California on an assignment with Avery Dennison in the mid 1990's, being responsible

for their supply chain group. After that Bill took up private consulting and contract work in manufacturing and logistics, with an emphasis on business start-ups in China and greater Asia.

Bill started collecting coins in the 1960's with discoveries from his paper route! His very first collection was a mercury dime set in a blue Whitman folder. Since that time, he has always dabbled in precious metals on some level, from 90% silver in the early 1970's to krugerrands when they were first issued. Over time he started to focus on early silver U.S. coinage from 1794-1839, and has since expanded into early type coins, key U.S. Coins, including $5 and $10 Indian Gold. Bill routinely attends and sets up as a dealer at the ANA's World's Fair of Money, Florida United Numismatic Association, and Central States Numismatic Society. Locally, you can find him doing the dealer thing throughout North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia, with an occasional trip up to Pennsylvania for the Battlefield Coin Show in historic Gettysburg. If you see him at one of these shows, stop by and say hello!

**Looking for a Local Coin Club or Local & Regional Coin Shows?**

Find out more about clubs and shows in your area on the NCNA website: **www.NCNA.club**

Click on "Coin Clubs" or "Coin Shows" tab at the top of any page.

**Join the NCNA Facebook page at *www.facebook.com/NCCollector***

**Visit the NCNA Website at www.NCNA.CLUB**

# ON THE RECORD

By Bill Graves, NCNA Secretary

Our President, Greg Cheek, mentioned that in this space that you might see updates from Halbert Carmichael and myself on various topics. As secretary of NCNA, one of the various tasks is that of note taker, wordsmith, and clarifier, condenser of words, and sometimes coming up with a precise phrase to capture the intention of one's comment. However, one of the underneath duties sometimes boils down to researcher, verifier, and authenticator.

All that said, I wanted to use that segway to comment on the importance of having a numismatic library to enhance your enjoyment of the hobby and to expand your knowledge as to the background and history of whatever you are collecting. Most of us have heard the phrase, "Buy the book before you buy the coin", but only a few heed this advice. Further, many individuals are anxious to show off a favorite rare coin, but very few show any enthusiasm in having a reference library.

I can tell you as a dealer, that I use my reference library nearly every day to verify varieties for customers, as well confirm values, scarcity, and other important details about a coin. To me, it makes perfectly good sense to learn from an acknowledged expert on a subject, and to leverage what you learn to enhance your bargaining strength when buying and selling coins.

My own library consists of: books, auction catalogs, dealer price lists, and various magazines/newsletters. The basic reference for most folks is of course, the "Red Book ", but it shouldn't stop there. Since I'm an avid collector of Early Silver Half-Dollars, my go to reference is: "United States Early Half-Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836" 5th Edition by Donald Parsley (commonly referred to the Overton Guide). I also use Dick Graham's book "Reeded Edge Half Dollars - 1836-1839. For copper I utilize Dr. William Sheldon's book "Penny Whimsy". For gold I use David Akers' United States Gold Coins. And a must have basic is Walter Breen's "Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins ".

I'll leave it there for now, and pick it up next issue. In the meantime, if you'd like to contribute to this topic, feel free to drop me a note at ***eaglecoinclub1@aol.com***. I'd love to hear from you and to share what you have. Remember … Knowledge is Power!

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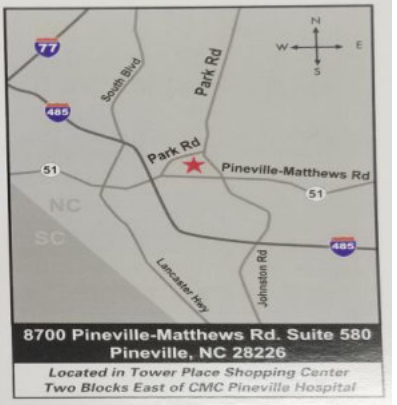


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# Young Collector's News

## Programs for Young Numismatists

By Bob Pedolsky

Hello YNs of all ages.

Welcome to summer and fun times. This article is for students from ages 8-22 and their parents. There are a multitude of programs and scholarships available for qualified YNs and students that can be applied to either numismatics, college, or internships. Some are very easy to apply for and some involve work that you might have already accomplished. All you must do is fill out an application. Below I will give you a brief description of some of the more popular programs and contact information for them.

Let's start with the most popular program offered by the **A**merican **N**umismatic **A**ssociation, the COINS FOR A's PROGRAM. Any student (including home schooled) ages 17 and younger can apply. All you need are three or more "A"s on your report card. Send a copy to Rod Gills, Educational Director, at the American Numismatic Association, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903 or email to rgillis@money.org. The ANA will send you a free coin and a one-year membership to the ANA.

Next is the Annual Literary Competition (sponsored by the ANA) for ages 8-12, 13-17, and 18-22. Participants must be ANA YN members. Prizes will be awarded in all three age groups for first second and third place. Prizes range from total value of approximately $100- $1000. For more information please go to www.magazine@money.org for details. Here is a great opportunity to excel in your writing skills and win prizes and money. I have seen in past years some age categories only have one or two entries. A concise well thought out essay has a great chance to win one of the prizes in this category.

The ANA also sponsors two other scholarships: one for college and one for the ANA Summer Seminar. The college scholarships are $1000 for the winner to use for their college education, anyway they see fit. The Summer Seminar is for a trip to the ANA headquarters in Colorado for a week of coin classes and other fun events. You can win either a full or partial scholarship to the event. For NCNA YN members, you can also

win a scholarship to the ANA Summer Seminar by completing the application form on the NCNA website.

Other YN programs run by the ANA are: Ancient Coin Project, Early American Coin Project, and Dollar Coin Project (12 and under). For detailed information about these programs, you can enroll at www.money.org or call 800-367-9723. All three are great opportunities to learn and excel in numismatics.

The Professional Numismatic Guild (PMG) offers scholarships and internships. The scholarship is for the ANA Summer Seminar, ages 13-22, covers tuition, airfare, accommodations, and meals. The internship is for students 21 years or older.

Many local clubs also offer opportunities for YNs to earn either a scholarship or just a reference to advance their education or possible part time, summer, or full-time employment.

I have been the youth coordinator for the Charlotte Coin Club for the past 20 years. I have filled out many referral letters for scholarship or community service. A few YNs have gotten summer jobs in the local coin shops because of their connection to the club. Working in a coin shop has helped with future jobs because of the trust and knowledge that is needed.

There are many opportunities for students to advance themselves (knowledge in coins, advances in schoolwork and current or future jobs) if they take advantage of the programs available to them from the organizations listed above, NCNA, and/or their local club.

Learning about your hobby, then applying that information, can earn you prizes (free coins), trips (to the ANA in Colorado for the Summer Seminars), money (to use for college or yourself), possible job opportunities, and other possibilities not even mentioned.

So, apply yourself, have some fun in your hobby because you never know where it can lead. As Q. David Bowers has said, (and I paraphrase) "I have never worked a day in my life being involved in the hobby I love."

Enjoy the summer. I hope to see many of you at the NCNA annual show in Concord September 30- October 2.

# COINS for A's

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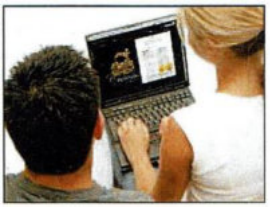

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# Two Cents Beats Two Pennies!

By Paul Horner

*Qwik Qwiz:*
*When were the first 2 cents coins struck?*
*What were the first coins with "God" in the motto?*
*What is the fewest number of coins to make 54 cents?*
*Read on for the answers!*

A two cents coin was first proposed in 1806, however the Mint Act of April 17th 1806 did not become law. It (would have) provided for a two cent coin of *billon* weighing 30.7 grains, composed of 6.4 grains of silver and 24.3 grains of copper. The first 2 centers came along 30 years later…

***The first two cents of 1836. This coin is about the diameter of a present day cent, struck in billon with a plain edge, Judd-52.***

In 1836, Mint Director Robert M. Patterson believed a 2 cent coin along with a gold dollar should be included in the forth coming Mint act and directed that designs be prepared. Christian Gobrecht[1] and Franklin Peale[2] collaborated on a design for the two cents coin. The original two cents were struck in billon: 90% copper and 10% silver. At that time, it was felt that even minor coins had to have an intrinsic value or they would not circulate. More coins of the same design were made in copper and white metal, with examples having either a reeded or a plain edge. Some were silver plated, pickled, and abraded to show how easily the billon alloy could be counterfeited from a base metal and passed as silver. The two cents coin was ultimately dropped from the final bill and a generation would pass before the denomination appeared again. *So, the answer to the first question is **1836**!*

It is a common "factoid" that the 2 cents coin was the first to employ the motto *In God We Trust*. True so far, as a *circulating* coin is concerned.

On November 20th, 1861, Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase sent a memo to director of the mint James Pollock:

*Dear Sir:*

*No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition. S.P.Chase*

***The First coins with the motto "GOD OUR TRUST" were 1861 dated half dollars and eagles. Left to right: half dollars J-279 in silver, J-277 silver, eagles J-287 copper gilt, J-285 copper gilt. The half dollars were also struck in copper.***

This was quickly done and in December of 1861, Chief Engraver James Longacre delivered half dollars in silver and copper, and copper eagles with the motto "GOD OUR TRUST" on the reverse. These coins were chosen as they had ample "empty space" above the eagles to add a motto. Two major varieties were made of each: with the motto in the field, and on a scroll. In 1862 and 1863, additional examples of the half dollars and eagles were made in the same metals. The reader is referred to *"In God We Trust…"* (See references) for extensive coverage of these and all later coins with various mottos.

*What were the first coins with "God" in the motto? Now you know!* ***1861 eagles and half dollars***.

***1863 patterns: Shield and round wreath J-315 (left) Washington with "pinched" wreath J-305 (right).***

In 1863 Mint Director James Pollock proposed a two cent coin to Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase (refer to the 10 grand note in your billfold for Chase's mug.) The Chief Engraver of the Mint, James B. Longacre designed two different two cents coins. Pollock submitted patterns to Chase with Washington's portrait and the later adopted "shield with spears in saltire[3]," along with two wreath and denomination reverses. Both obverses were paired with both reverses on these pattern coins.

***God Our Trust***

3 mottos are found on the different 2 cents coins:
**GOD AND OUR COUNTRY** was used on the 1863 Washington 2 cents patterns
**GOD OUR TRUST** is found on the Shield & Spears 2 cents 1863 patterns
**IN GOD WE TRUST** is on Shield & Arrows 1863 & 1864 patterns and all circulation strikes. This was the first circulating coin to carry this motto. Legislation was signed into law on July 30th 1956 by President Eisenhower declaring the phrase to be the National Motto[4].

***Collecting the Two Cents***

These coins were authorized by The Act of April 22nd 1864.[5] The diameter is 23 mm or just slightly smaller than a quarter. They are made of 95% copper alloyed with 5% tin and zinc. This is a coin every collection can embrace. A first step for collecting these coins is just one for type, perhaps then adding in a small motto coin. Over 45 ½ million

were struck over 10 years. The mintage dropped each year, so later dates are a bit scarcer. An 11 piece (small motto included) date set in nice condition is readily obtainable with the proof only 1873 being the scarcest. All dates except the 1873 can be found in found in any grade desired. The only "impossible" coin in a *proof* date set is the 1864 small motto. These are thought to have been struck originally in proof as patterns. Prices for this piece of numismatic caviar exceeds 25Gs and approaches 100 grand for an exceptional coin. Some collectors add a pattern or two into their hoards for some variety. 100's of dies were made for production, so as for varieties, this series has them! The *Red Book* lists five, *Breen* lists 40 including dates. *Kliman* describes many varieties. However his book has a total of two photographs and one diagram. The *Flynn* book and a strong loupe will serve collectors nicely. In this observer's opinion some listed varieties fall into the "If you say so" and "wishful thinking" area. A few favorites follow.

***Small motto, top views, inside of both spears have 5 feathers***
***Large motto, bottom views, inside of both arrows have 4 feathers***

Three different hubs for making obverse dies were used: **1st Obverse (date side) *Small Motto* Hub** resulted in the Small Motto 1863 patterns, with dies made for a few thousand 1864 small motto circulation strikes and a very few proofs. **2nd Obverse *Large Motto* Hub** was used to make 1864-1871 dated dies[6]**. 3rd Obverse *Large Motto* Hub** produced dies dated 1870-1873. Both the 2nd & 3rd Obverse Hubs were used for dies dated 1870 & 1871. Collect one of each!

***The 4th bundle of leaves on hub 2 (left) has 5 leaves, hub 3 (right) has 4 leaves. The 3rd bundle has 2 leaves, above and left of the 4th bundle.***

***Perfect D (left) and Injured D (right)***

One reverse (wreath) hub was used. At some point, the top serif on the "D" in "UNITED" on the reverse hub was injured[7]. On some 1864 large motto and 1865 circulation strikes the D is complete. An injured D is found on late 1864 large motto, some 1865, and coins and all later dates. Proof coins of 1868-1873 all used the same reverse die and have an injured D. A quad of '64s & '65s each with both D's would be cool! One injured D die was used for many years to strike proofs. The hub is in relief, (dies are incuse) so damage to the hub could easily occur.

***Top of 5: fancy and plain, slightly different "5" punches resulted in these varieties. One of each makes a neat pair!***

## Off Metal Patterns

Off metal patterns were made in every year: Copper-Nickel 1864-1867, Nickel 1864-1870, and aluminum in 1864 and 1868-1873. These three were made to include in "off metal" sets of coins sold at the mint. An 1865 silver coin and a '67 struck in oroide is known along with a thick planchet copper coin of 1873. These are cool, but, the most unusual ones have to be…

## Silver / Copper Clad Two Cents Coinage

A curious "clad" material with visible copper and silver was used for a few coins dated 1865, 1869 and 1870. Auction descriptions help describe them: Heritage Archives for the Judd-675 states "Struck in native Michigan ore of uncertain silver-copper alloy with a plain edge. The planchet appears to have been created by rolling a combination of copper and silver strips." Heritage Archives for a Judd-407 says "These

odd die trials were allegedly struck from native Michigan ore that contained both copper and silver…" So, was native ore simply melted and rolled, or was a layer of thin silver rolled onto copper? Or both? Whatever the process was, each individual coin shows laminations and streaks in the metal. Some are almost all copper on one side and silver on the other, with others having a mixture on both sides. Another related coin made from this odd silver-copper material needs mentioning as a possibly unique quarter dated 1865 was struck from this material using the regular dies, J-424a.

**1865** off metal strikes: *Copper & Silver* Judd-407 (R-7 - 12 known)
**1869** off metal strikes: *Silver & Copper* J-674a (possibly unique)
**1870** off metal strikes: *Copper & Silver* J-793 (R-7)

*Qwik Quiz, query three: What is the fewest number of coins to make 54 cents? Uh-Oh, did you say 3?* ***Wrong.***
*The Correct Answer is…..**2!*** ***Read On Folks!***

**The 27 Cents Pieces**

The next pair of coins are mules; hybrids of unrelated parentage: 2 cents paired with a quarter. These were both struck on the same copper / silver stock just described. Both pieces were made during the "hay day" of mint made fantasy coins. They are both unique.

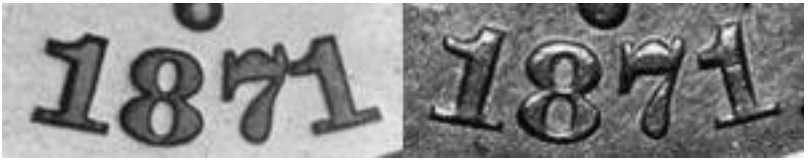
***J-675, 1869 2 cents obverse mated to a Standard Silver quarter obverse.***

***J-793a, 2 cents reverse mated to an 1870 Standard Silver quarter reverse.***

***1869 27 cents piece:*** **2 cents shield dated obverse, 25 cents Standard Silver obverse.** *Struck on copper-silver* J-675, *Unique* Heritage, 2021 $14,400.
***1870 27 cents piece:*** **2 cents wreath reverse, 25 cents Standard Silver quarter dated reverse** *Struck on copper-silver,* J-793A, *Unique* B Max Mehl, Nov. '44; King Farouk, 1954; Heritage, Simpson 2021 $13,200. The "Standard Silver" dimes, quarters and half dollars of reduced silver content were proposed to redeem the fractional currency in circulation. These patterns were struck in 1869-1871.

***1867 Double Die***

**1867 Double Die obverse:** There are other double dies in the series but this one is the most obvious. This Red Book variety is available in all grades.



***1871 Closed & Open Date***

**1871** Circulation strikes: Close "71" in date, & "7 1" apart. In 1871, there was one die that was hubbed by both the 2nd and 3rd obverse hub, resulting in a rare double die variety, *Flynn:* 1871 DDO-002.

**1873 Closed 3 & Open 3**

**1873 is a** Proof only date and the last year of striking. On early coins the **closed 3** was easily mistaken for an 8. Late in the year the 1**873 open 3** dies were made. The open 3 are possibly restrikes and much rarer than closed 3 coins. Closed and open 3's are found in several denominations.

***Epilogue:*** The Act of March 3rd 1871 provided for copper coins to be redeemed, then either reissued if fit for further circulation or melted. After 1872, two cents coins were no longer being put back into circulation. The act of February 12th 1873 ended the two cents piece as a coin of the realm. By 1917, something over 17 million of these coins had been melted.

***Footnotes:***

1. Christian Gobrecht (1785-1844) was the third Chief Engraver of the US Mint. He redesigned the nation's coinage from ½ cents through the gold eagle. Several pattern coins that never reached circulation, and many medals came from his designs. The flying eagle "Gobrecht Dollars" of 1836-1839 is perhaps his best known claim to fame.

2. Franklin Peale (1795-1870) was in 1836 the melter and refiner of the US Mint. He designed and improved much of the mint's machinery including the first steam power coining press installed in 1836.

3. The weapons behind the shield are referred to as both spears and arrows *in saltire*, in official correspondence. Saltire is a heraldic term referring to two diagonal lines: dexter (right) and sinister (left), crossing at the center, resulting in the form of an "X".

4. *Breen* states that Secretary Chase stipulated that "God Our Trust" be changed to "In God We Trust".

5. Act of April 22nd 1864 *"…and there shall be, from time to time, struck and coined at the mint a two cent piece, of the same composition,* [as the cent] *the standard weight which shall be ninety-six grains, or one fifth of one troy ounce, with no greater deviation than four grains to each piece of cent and two-cent coins; and the shape, mottoes, and devices of said coins shall be fixed by the Director of the Mint with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury…"* This act also provided that two cents coins were legal tender up to 20 cents.

6. The 2nd obverse hub is called "Obverse of 1869" by Flynn. The 3rd Obverse hub was made by William Barber after the death of James Longacre. It is called "Obverse of 1870" by Flynn and "Hub of 1871" by Breen.

7. *Flynn* refers to the "D" as *Full D* (perfect D), *Partial D,* and *Incomplete D* (both herein as Injured D). Flynn's *partial D* shows a trace of the top serif of the D, while his *incomplete D* shows none. The difference between partial and incomplete D's can be attributed to the

degree of hub impressions into the die, die state, and coin wear. The hub is in relief like a coin. The serif may have been broken off by carelessness with a tool, dropping the hub, or some other accidental mishap.

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Judd and J- numbers are referenced from United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces by J. Hewett Judd.

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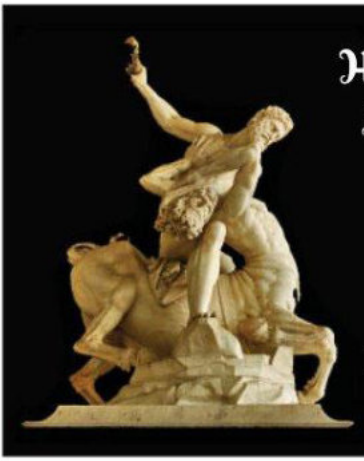

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# COIN SHOW CALENDAR

**Please note that shows listed below are subject to change or cancellation. Be sure to check for updates for these shows with show promoters or on the NCNA Website prior to attending:**
**www.NCNA.club**

## NC

| | |
|---|---|
| **Jul. 23-24**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-4p** | **Rocky Mount, NC**<br>*Rare Coins of Raleigh Coins & Currency Show*<br>Moose Lodge<br>521 Country Club Road, 27804<br>Contact: Shanna Mills - 919.790.8544 |
| **Aug. 14-15**<br>**Sa: 10a-5p**<br>**Su: 10a-3p** | **Statesville, NC**<br>*26th Annual Iredell-Statesville Coin Club Show*<br>Statesville Civic Center<br>300 South Center Street, 28677<br>Contact: Bill Brewer - 704.450.1639 |
| **Sep. 10-11**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-4p** | **Raleigh, NC**<br>*Rare Coins of Raleigh Coins & Currency Show*<br>NC State Fairgrounds, Martin Bldg.<br>1025 Blue Ridge Blvd., 27607<br>Contact: Shanna Mills - 919.790.8544 |
| **Sep. 17-18**<br>**Sa: 10a-5p**<br>**Su: 10a-3p** | Hickory, NC **(CANCELLED)**<br>*Carolina Coin & Stamp Show*<br>Hickory Metro Convention Center<br>1960 13th Ave. SE #5186, 28602<br>Contact: Clayton Brewer - 910.574.4635 |
| **Sep. 30 - Oct. 1-2**<br>**Fr: 10a-6p**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-3p** | **Concord, NC**<br>***NCNA Convention and Coin Show***<br>**Cabarrus Arena and Events Center**<br>**4751 Highway 49 North, 28025**<br>**Contact: Perry Siegel – 704.488.4787** |
| **Oct. 15-16**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-4p** | **Jacksonville, NC**<br>Jacksonville-Camp Lejeune Coin & Paper Money Show<br>Hilton Garden Inn<br>1016 Jacksonville Parkway, 28546<br>Contact: Calvin Lindsey - 910.548.4963 |
| **Nov. 26-27**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-4p** | **Rocky Mount, NC**<br>*Rare Coins of Raleigh Coins & Currency Show*<br>Moose Lodge<br>521 Country Club Road, 27804<br>Contact: Shanna Mills - 919.790.8544 |

## Attention show promoters!

**Send in your show information for the NCNA Journal to *ghcheek@earthlink.net* at least four months ahead of time.**

# SC

| | |
|---|---|
| **Jul. 29-31**<br>**Fr: Noon-6p**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-3p** | **Ladson, SC**<br>*Low Country Coin Club Show*<br>Exchange Park Fairgrounds<br>9850 HWY 78, 29496<br>Contact: Richard Smith – 843.797.1245 |
| **Sep. 10**<br>**Sa: 9a-5p** | **Aiken, SC**<br>*Stephen James CSRA Coin Club Coin Show*<br>South Aiken Presbyterian Church<br>1711 Whiskey Rd. 29803<br>Contact: Patricia James – 803.979.3150 |
| **Oct. 8**<br>**Sa: 9a-5p** | **Florence, SC**<br>*Pee Dee Area Coin Club Annual Show*<br>Florence/Darlington Technical College – SIMT Building<br>1951 Pisgah Road, 29501<br>Contact: Pat Patton – 803.403.5607 |
| **Oct. 28-30**<br>**Fr: 10a-6p**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-3p** | **Greenville, SC**<br>***Annual SCNA Convention and Coin Show***<br>**TD Convention Center**<br>**1 Exposition Drive**<br>**Contact: Bill Latour – 843.532.5089** |

# VA

| | |
|---|---|
| **Jul. 23-24**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-4p** | **Annandale, VA**<br>*Annandale Coin Show* - Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Community Cultural Center<br>8333 Little River Turnpike, 22003<br>Contact: Wayne Herndon - 703.385.0058 |
| **Aug. 27-28**<br>**Sa: 9:30a-5:30p**<br>**Su: 9:30a-3:30p** | **Salem, VA** (also Nov. 5-6)<br>*Salem/Roanoke Valley Coin Shows*<br>American Legion Post #3<br>710 Apperson Drive<br>Contact: Will Camp – 540.943.2267 |
| **Sep. 23-25**<br>**Fr: 10a-6p**<br>**Sa: 10a-6p**<br>**Su: 10a-4p** | **Fredericksburg, VA**<br>***VNA Convention & Coin Show***<br>**Fredericksburg Expo Center**<br>**2371 Carl D Silver Parkway, 22401**<br>**Contact: Richard Schornak – 757.659.0235** |

## Low Country Summer Coin Show

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July 31 – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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# Tenpō Tsūhō: A 19th Century Lesson in Inflation

By Harrison Helms

Inflation… a phenomenon the Federal Government has unsuccessfully tried to combat and contain, one that stirs up feelings of anxiety in many of the American people, especially those soon to go off on their own into the world like me. The thought of hard-earned paychecks and careful savings losing their inherent value is unnerving and disheartening. Inflation is no new occurrence, but instead, a force that has ravaged the economic prosperity of countless nations, such as Germany following the First World War and the nations of the Eastern Bloc during the Cold War. Yet, throughout history, no inflation nor economic disarray remotely compares to that of Eastern Asia during the 19th Century.

While the rest of the world experienced rapid industrialization, trade, and reform in policy to accommodate changes, the various dynastic states of Eastern Asia and their prominent conservative officials fought tooth and nail to preserve tradition. Each nation followed a similarly stubborn policy of isolationism and suppression of foreign ideas, only making concessions to colonial empires when coerced with military action.

Asia's so-called "century of humiliation" saw rampant poverty and violence overpower the East Asian governments, spiraling them into a state of irreversible corruption and inefficiency reflected on the population. In response to calamity, Japan, China, Korea, and Vietnam all issued coinage of extremely high value in an attempt to profit off seigniorage and fill the deficits left by famine, embezzlement, and costly rebellion, all with devastating effects on the people.

The first of these high-value coins was issued in 1835, continuing to be produced until 1870. An iconic coin, the Tenpō Tsūhō (天保通寶), was excessively cast by the Tokugawa (徳川) Shogunate of Japan to fill fiscal deficits during turbulent times of natural disasters and stagnation, having a whopping mintage of 484,804,054 pieces. Instead, it caused severe inflation in the prices of daily necessities and highlighted a major flaw in Japan's feudal system of government.

The Tenpō Tsūhō is an oval-shaped coin with a square hole that sported a face value of 100 mon yet only weighed ~20.70 grams, giving it an intrinsic value of 5.5 mon (a typical Japanese cash coin was equal to 1 mon, its value determined by weight in copper). This allowed the government to make a hefty profit through debasement at the expense of the people. However, it was not only the central government that saw and took advantage of this.

Despite its status as a military dictatorship, Japan's government was anything but centralized, with the Tokugawa family appointing semi-autonomous daimyo from loyal clans to rule over their respective provinces. However, the Tenpō Tsūhō serves as an example of the biggest problem with the daimyo system: many daimyos weren't loyal to the Tokugawa, masquerading as subjects while using their autonomy to enrich themselves and further increase their power and influence. Seeing a financial opportunity in the Tenpō Tsūhō, over ten provincial mints were set up by various daimyo to illegally cast contemporary counterfeit coins (differentiated by grainier textures and slight calligraphy differences) and reap the seigniorage.

As more and more currency was introduced, the less valuable it became, supporting Japan's plunge into the chaotic Bakumatsu (幕末) Era, where hyperinflation and civil unrest continually pushed Japan over the edge to westernize and begin the Meiji (明治) Restoration. The Meiji Restoration deposed the military government, restored imperial power, and brought about many needed reforms, including those to modernize and stabilize the economy, switching the national currency from the Ryō to the Yen (ending the mintage of the Tenpō Tsūhō).

Despite its plain, unassuming appearance as a cast coin, the Tenpō Tsūhō holds immense historical value and is a great example of how a government's mismanagement and greed can have dire consequences. Those interested in the history of the Tenpō Tsūhō and the state of Japan during its lifetime may be pleased to learn that out of the four types of high denomination cash coins, the Tenpō Tsūhō is the most affordable at around $20. I would recommend the investment to any interested numismatists.

Reference:
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*Early Japanese Coins* by David Hartill

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# A Blast From The Past ...

By: Daniel M. Freeman, NCNA LM#113

(Author's note: This article is going to be about Memorial Day. Some will want to know what this has to do with numismatics. All I ask is for you to keep an open mind as you read…)

I always look forward to Memorial Day. Not because I get the day off. I'm usually working in some capacity or another. It's the old war movies on TV like "In Harm's Way" or "Tora! Tora! Tora!" The big auto races, the "Indy 500", the "Coca Cola 600", and trips to the beach or mountains. I don't want to leave out the BBQ on the grill either. But the most important thing for me are the memories of my mother and father talking about life during World War II. My father was in the US Army. He took basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. He was in a "Replacement Battalion" sent to Saipan to relieve the Marines who had taken the island. He didn't see much combat, but life was still hard for a young man a world away from what he knew. One day when I heard him talking about the war to a friend, I heard him say he hated the "Navy". After his friend left, I asked him why. He said "Son, we were on that *#%* island and it was 100 degrees. All kinds of ants and bugs biting and crawling all over you nonstop. You could take a pair of field glasses and look at the ships off shore, and the b------s were leaning on the ship's railings licking ice cream. ICE CREAM!! ". He went on to tell me they were rationed one beer and two cokes per week. Since he didn't drink at that time, he would trade his beer for as many as seven cokes at a time. He would sell the cokes or trade for beer, etc. and send the money home to mom.

I spent a lot of time at my father's car lot in my youth after school and during the summer. I would always listen to his "war buddies" when they came out to visit. I would ask a lot of questions when my father wasn't around. One of my favorite people was a man named Cutlar Moore. He was in the US Navy and served on a "PT Boat" in the Pacific. He really saw war and death up close. But my favorite story was how they would drain the alcohol fuel from the torpedoes and drink it to catch a buzz. This didn't last long as the "Brass" found out and started putting a pink colored dye in the fuel that made them sick if they drank it. Not to be deprived of one of their very few pleasures, they would take loaves of bread and filter the alcohol. Now all of their bread developed this weird "Pink South Pacific Fungus", and the bread had to be replaced as well as the "defective torpedoes".

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RATIONING and PRICE CONTROL mean A FAIR SHARE at A FAIR PRICE

Back home during this time, almost everything was rationed including gasoline, heating oil, sugar, flour, coffee, and milk. You could not go to a store and buy what you wanted. You had to have a government issued coupon for it. A "Ration Board" decided how much of anything you could get. People think the recent pandemic made things hard to get. They have no real idea. Have a tire on your car blowout? Send a request to the "Ration Board", and maybe a year later you might get one. Need some aluminum parts for your fishing boat? Nada. All aluminum is for aircraft production. WWII was the world's most dangerous time in recorded history. Of the tens of millions who fought and served in that war, only a very few now remain to tell their story. It's a national disgrace that this history is not taught in our schools anymore. The veterans of Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and many other conflicts, as well as those who have served in peacetime is no less important. Our military is what keeps the wolves away. And the world is full of wolves who are educated and understand history. It would be nice if we had some politicians that understood history.

… In honor of those who gave their all, their lives, for our freedom.
Until next time….

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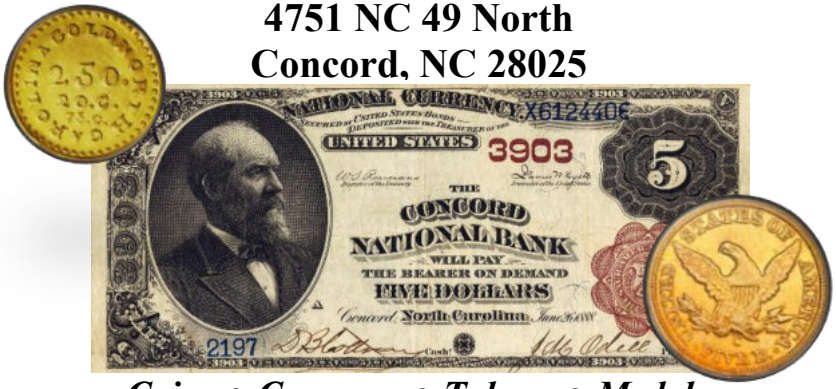


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# THE ANCIENT GUY

## Commodus as Hercules

By Perry Siegel

There's often debate about who was the worst Roman Emperor of all time. By most accounts, a brain illness altered Caligula's personality to one of a cruel and mad leader of the Roman people. Nero was arguably an even worse madman than his uncle, Caligula, having his step-brother Britannicus killed, his wife Octavia executed, and his mother Agrippina stabbed and murdered. Elagabalus' sexual perversion and religious controversy are infamous. Other extremely cruel emperors certainly worthy of mention include Caracalla, Domitian, and Maximinus I, to name just three. There's certainly no shortage of candidates to choose from when considering crazed Roman Emperors! Then of course there's Commodus and his fascination with Hercules and gladiatorial games.

Commodus was appointed co-emperor by his father Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 177 when he was just 16 years old. He became sole emperor in A.D. 180, upon the death of Aurelius. His reign essentially ended the golden era of peace known as Pax Romano. The polar opposite of his reserved and dutiful father, Commodus, according to most historians, was debauched and corrupt as well as a megalomaniac. This mixture of qualities played a crucial role in the decline of the empire. Commodus

***Bronze sestertius with Commodus commemorating the divine Marcus Aurelius as he ascends to heaven on an eagle.***

had ruined the peace and wealth of Rome through his actions, one of which was his constant holding of spectacular gladiator games in Rome which all but bankrupted the empire. He is also well known for entering the ring in the Colosseum and actually fighting against professional gladiators as well as wild beasts.

Commodus is perhaps best known, however, for his obsession with Hercules. During the latter part of his reign, Commodus began associating himself with the mythological hero. He actually believed that he was an incarnation of Hercules, ordering statues of himself dressed like the demigod be erected throughout the empire, and also ordered that people call him Hercules, son of Zeus. Commodus as Hercules (photo below), is a famous marble portrait sculpture created sometime in early A.D. 192. It is housed in the Capitoline Museums in Rome, Italy. Originally discovered in 1874 in the underground chambers of Horti Lamiani, it has become one of the most famous examples of Roman portraiture to date.

As seen on the outstanding coin pictured below, Commodus' likeness was displayed wearing a lion skin after one of the labors of Hercules who slew the Nemean lion, skinned the lion with its own claws, and then wore it as a headdress. The reverse depicts familiar instruments of the hero: the club, bow, and quiver with arrows. As the myth goes, Hercules fashioned his famous knotted club from a wild olive tree that he tore down with his bare hands from the soil of Mount Helicon and subsequently used to slay the lion of Cithaeron when he was just 18 years old. Probably the most familiar account of his bow and arrows was

his shooting of the Stymphalian birds to fulfill his sixth labor. Commodus began striking coins with this Herculian imagery in the final year of his reign when his infatuation with Hercules as his divine patron had reached a zenith.

Commodus' reign was filled with intrigue, conspiracies, and murder. In A.D. 182 his sister Lucilla conspired with a group of Senators to murder him. The plot failed and Commodus retaliated by executing a number of leading senators and exiling Lucilla to Capri where she was later killed. Other executions followed in subsequent years. In 191 the city of Rome was extensively damaged by a fire that ravaged for several days, causing the destruction of many public buildings including the Temple of Pax, the temple of Vesta, and parts of the imperial palace. Possibly seeing this as an opportunity early in 192, the megalomaniac Commodus declared himself the new Romulus by re-founding Rome and renaming it Colonia Commodiana (Colony of Commodus), the Roman people Commodiani, and even renaming the months of the year after himself.

At the end of December, 192, Commodus planned to celebrate the Roman New Year by making an appearance before the Roman people not from the palace in traditional purple robes, but from the gladiator barracks escorted by the rest of the gladiators. He shared his plans with his mistress Marcia as well his chamberlain, Eclectus, and the head of the Praetorian Guard, Laetus. They all tried to dissuade him from bringing disgrace to the Roman Empire. Commodus became furious by their

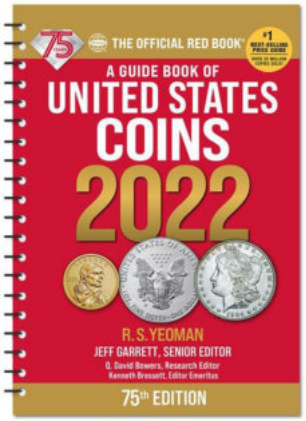
***Bronze medallion with Commodus wearing the lion skin headdress and depicted as Hercules guiding a yoke of oxen. These medallions were evidently prepared ahead of time to be distributed as gifts, either on December 10th or January 1st. This particular medallion was minted in late 192. Commodus, however, would not live to see the new year, as he was of course murdered on the evening of December 31st. Therefore, it is quite possible that the recipients of this medallion received it along with the news that Commodus had been murdered!***

reaction and placed their names on a list of people to be executed on New Year's morning along with several prominent senators. Marcia discovered the list and seeing her name there, conspired with Eclectus and Laetus to kill Commodus on New Year's Eve. She poisoned his wine, but he vomited it up, so the conspirators sent Commodus' wrestling partner Narcissus who succeeded in strangling him in his bath. The Gladiator movie fans reading this may be disappointed to know that Commodus (portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix) was not killed by Maximus (played by Russell Crowe) in the gladiator's final fight. My apologies for the spoiler!

***Bronze sestertius with Commodus as Hercules receiving grain ears from Africa; Hercules stands nude displaying the curly hair of Commodus. He had earlier established a fleet to transport grain from Africa to Rome, and this reverse type of A.D. 192 seems to boast that he, as the Roman Hercules, would personally go to Africa and take charge of the shipment. According to the Historia Augusta, Commodus indeed planned to visit Africa in 192 and even received a subsidy for his expenses from the Senate, but then never made the trip before his assassination on the last day of the year.***

Commodus' assassination on New Year's Eve, A.D. 192 brought an end to the Nerva-Antonine era and opened a Pandora's Box of civil war from which the Empire never really fully recovered. Upon his death, the Senate declared Commodus a public enemy (a *de facto damnatio memoriae*) and restored the original name of the city of Rome and its institutions. Most of the statues of Commodus were demolished and his body was buried in the Mausoleum of Hadrian. Caught between a gladiator and a god, the emperor Commodus was vilified as one of the very worst Roman emperors. It is a legacy that endures to this day.

# Look it up in the RED BOOK




Look it up in the REDBOOK" is a column to test your knowledge of U.S. coins using R.S. Yeoman's well known "A Guide Book of United States Coins - **THE OFFICIAL RED BOOK"**. With this column we want to challenge journal readers with questions that can be answered in this great reference on U.S. coins.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!** We want to hear your ideas and suggestions for future editions of this column. Please **email your suggested themes and matching questions** to Greg Cheek at ghcheek@earthlink.net.

Please try to keep it simple, yet challenging. Who knows! Your idea could be featured in "Look it up in the REDBOOK" in the next edition of the NCNA Journal.

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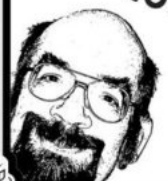

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# Explaining the Portrait on 8 Reales "Silver Dollars"

By Mark Benvenuto

There are no two ways about it, collectors truly, madly, deeply love silver dollars. They're big, they have a heft in the hand, and there is enough precious metal in them that they are truly worth something. But there is also no two ways around the fact that U.S. silver dollars minted before the Morgan dollars are expensive. That's just the way it is. And yet, up to 1857, among the many foreign coins that circulated legally in our growing nation were the 8 reales pieces of Mexico, and of lands farther south. Let's take a look at them, and do a bit of deciphering of all the images and legends.

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

The obverse of these big silver pieces may be the easiest for us to understand. The heads side is dominated by, well, a head. Specifically, it is the royal noggin of whoever was on the throne of Spain at the time the coin was issued. For example, from 1788 – 1808 that royal top job was held by Charles IV. His reign covered quite a few years for which a very young United States issued no coins at all. On his coins, he wears a laurel wreath, and is dressed in armor with all sorts of flowing robes about him.

Okay, first off, armor or not, this man did not go in to battle at the head of his troops. That day had long passed for kings by the time Charles got his turn on the throne. The laurel wreath is a bit fanciful, too. These are

simply symbols of the ancient Roman Empire, symbols which were still important to European royalty long, long after the Empire was gone.

Another nod to the vanished Romans is the legend on both the obverse and reverse of the 8 reales, and the fact that it is written in Latin. Sticking with our Charles example, the wording is, "Dei Gratia, Carolus IIII" and the date. In English, this is, "By the grace of God, Charles the Fourth." The word "king" is implied here, but not stated – meaning, "By the grace of God, King." That was the belief among the folks at the top back then, that they had their positions from the grace of God Himself.

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

The reverse of the 8 reales also has a legend in Latin, this time encircling the coat of arms of Spain. The legend is usually something like, "Hispan et Ind Rex" then a mint mark, a value, and a couple of initials. The legend has a few abbreviated terms, since Latin tended to add meaning at the end of a word, and in English would be, "King of the Spains and the Indies." Remember, what we consider Spain was to them the old Spain, while Mexico was New Spain. And yes, Spain had plenty of islands in the Indies, the Caribbean. The mint mark of Mexico City is still used today, an 'M' with a small 'o' on top of it. The "8R" is the value. And the remaining letters are those of the mint master, believe it or not. Collectors may take this for granted right now, but it's actually a neat bow back then to someone who was not necessarily royal. Think about it for a moment. This would be akin to having "A.D." on all of our modern, United States coins today, the initials for the current Mint Director, Alison Doone. For a guy who had his job "By the grace of God," this pretty much qualifies as a kind gesture.

The meat and potatoes of the reverse of any of the Spanish colonial 8 reales pieces is the wonderfully complex royal coat of arms. The easy bit is the top – the crown. That means the arms below it are royal, and not simply the arms of some person of general importance, or some hidalgo. The two pillars flanking the coat of arms are often called the Pillars of Hercules, so named because of Spain's position at the southwestern tip of Europe. The shield itself is a union of several different houses that became Spain in the "Middle Ages". The castles and lions are for the House of Castille and Leon. The small central image of three fleur de lis are the lily flowers that symbolize France, and in this case, Spain and France's interconnectedness through royal marriages. In heraldry, a little part in the center like that has a rather long name, an inescutcheon (quite a mouthful). And at the base of this coat of arms is a small flower symbolizing Granada, now a part of Spain.

Today we might be quick to ask "what's the point?" Why have such a complex coat of arms? The answer is both that it is tradition, and that most people could not read back in that time. For individuals who were illiterate, the image was easy to recognize.

One of the truly fascinating aspects of this rather complex coat of arms is that it kept changing with time. Spain lost its empire in the 1800's, lost its monarch in a civil war in the 1930's, and re-established its monarchy much more recently. With those changes came alterations and evolutions of the royal coat of arms.

We won't dig any deeper into the symbols of the 8 reales except to point out the dollar sign – by which we mean the dollars we'll have to spend to add one or more to our collections. We started by commenting that United States silver dollars minted prior to the Morgan dollar series can be expensive. In a neat twist, the 8 reales coins of Spanish colonial Mexico – or of New Spain as it was called – are wonderfully inexpensive. We may find that $100 goes a long way when it comes to buying one. That expense probably won't land a specimen in mint state, but it will get us handsome looking examples of many of the common date pieces. Plus, it will land us a piece of history that we can hold in our hands.

***All images are courtesy of Heritage Auction Galleries, www.HA.com.***

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# NCNA Membership Benefits

The NCNA was established to bring together those interested in numismatics and to foster a sharing of numismatic knowledge through its publications, its annual Convention and its support of local coin clubs. NCNA membership is open to collectors, dealers and clubs.

***Why Join the NCNA?***

- **Fellowship:** Become part of a numismatic community that stretches from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Outer Banks!
- ***NCNA Journal*:** Receive an award-winning quarterly magazine with informative articles, NCNA organizational updates and the latest news from member clubs.
- **Discounts on Books & Supplies**: Receive a 10% discount on numismatic books and supplies from participating dealers.
- **Annual Convention:** The NCNA hosts one of the larger coin and currency shows in North Carolina each year, featuring local and regional dealers.
    - NCNA members can enter the Convention bourse 30 minutes before the general public. (Valid NCNA membership card must be shown.)
- **Local Clubs:** The NCNA can assist with the organization of a new club or the ongoing support of an existing club. Contact us if you need assistance!
- **Club Liaison Program:** A program that brings together club representatives from across the state to exchange ideas and collaborate on improving the club experience for all members.
- **Annual Awards:** Each year the NCNA presents awards to those who have contributed to the advancement of the hobby through their support of the organization and/or the sharing of their expertise with other collectors.

# Young Collector Program

The NCNA offers an educational program specifically designed for young collectors. The program was created to help develop the next generation of collectors by encouraging today's youth to become active in coin and paper money collecting.

# ♣ News from the Clubs ♣

*Go to the NCNA website **NCNA.club** for the most recent updates on local club contacts, information, and news.*

## Cape Fear Coin Club News

The **Cape Fear Coin Club held its Annual Coin Show** at the Honeycutt Recreation Center in Fayetteville on May 21-22. Club President John Russell noted that the show was well attended, with Saturday activity being very strong, and Sunday being a typically lighter day. Overall the dealers seemed to be pleased with sales, and everyone seems to like the location of the show. The dealers were treated to BBQ lunch on Saturday and a Lasagna lunch on Sunday by the club. Donuts and coffee was available to the dealers both days as well. Overall, the club received a lot of good feedback from dealers and collectors regarding the show.

## Look for Upcoming Coin Club Shows

There are several upcoming coin shows over the next few months being sponsored by local coin clubs. Please check out the show calendar in the center of this issue of the NCNA Journal for more information.

# Attention NCNA Member Coin Clubs!

## The *NCNA Journal* needs your club news and updates on your club's activities!

**Club leaders:** ***Please have your representative send updates to the Journal regarding your club's activities as well as obituaries of members who recently passed away.***

Updates should be sent to Greg Cheek at ghcheek@earthlink.net or Greg Cheek – NCNA, PO Box 185, Yadkinville, NC 27055.

Thanks in advance for your help with keeping other NCNA members updated and aware of your club's organization changes, events and projects.

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# NCNA Classifieds

Current NCNA members may place a free, text-only buy/sell/trade ad in the *NCNA Journal*. Ads are limited to 50 words (more as space allows). Ads from non-members will be considered as space allows; cost for non-members is 25¢ per word (minimum of 20 words). The NCNA reserves the right to edit ads to fit the available space, and to refuse ads at its discretion.

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**WANTED:** North Carolina trolley and bus tokens to complete my state-wide collection. I need two plastic tokens from Goldsboro that have "Silverline Transportation" on one side with dollar values on the other. Also, two aluminum tokens from Thomasville that have "Thomasville Transit Co." on one side and "Good for one fare" on the other. Other less common tokens being sought are: Asheville (Biltmore Forest Stage Co.), Elizabeth City (Lucas VA-CAR Bus Lines), Greenville (City Bus Lines) and High Point (Duke Power Co High Point). If you have any of these to sell, or know someone who does, please contact me at jeff.mccauslin@gmail.com.

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**FOR SALE:** Complete sets of wooden nickels used to promote the Raleigh Money Expo™. Years included: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018; six in total. $6.00 per set, postage included. Contact info@raleighcoinclub.org or send payment to RCC / PO Box 99601 / Raleigh, NC 27624. Visit www.RaleighCoinClub.org to view the woods (under "Club Collectibles").

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**FOR SALE:** Back issues of the *NCNA Journal*. $2.00 per issue plus postage. Postage for 1-2 issues: $2.00; 3-4 issues: $3.00; 5-6 issues: $4.00. Larger quantity requests will be provided with a personalized shipping quote. Contact NCNA Secretary/Treasurer Halbert Carmichael at hhcarmichael@mindspring.com for available issues & payment instructions.

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**FOR SALE:** Complete set of US Commemorative set of half dollars including the Lafayette Dollar and the Isabella Quarter. There are also extra coins such as the Grant with Star, Missouri 2x4, and Alabama 2x2. Very nice set of high grade coins. Contact Eric Dailey at ericdaily@roadrunner.com or 704-880-2925.

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**FOR SALE:** Complete set of US Presidential Dollar "P" & "D" rolls in square tubes, unopened mint boxes, 80 unopened mint rolls. Contact Al Russo at adrusso1@aol.com or 336-314-5126.

***Your ad can be here in the next issue of the* NCNA Journal!**

## *2022 NCNA Board of Directors Meeting Schedule*

All NCNA BOD meetings are open to the NCNA membership. BOD meetings are scheduled on Saturday, immediately following the close of the coin show bourse and times are TBD. ***Please note that the BOD meeting scheduled for October 1 is actually the Annual NCNA General Membership Meeting at Cabarrus Arena at 8:30 AM. All members of the NCNA are encouraged to attend.***

| Meeting Location | Date |
|---|---|
| Charlotte Coin Club Show - Charlotte | Feb. 12, 2022 |
| Azalea Festival Coin Show - Wilmington | April 9, 2022 |
| Raleigh Money Expo - Raleigh Coin Show - Raleigh | June 18, 2022 |
| Iredell-Statesville Coin Club Show - Statesville | Aug. 13, 2022 |
| NCNA Convention - General Membership - Concord | Oct. 1, 2022 |
| Carolina Coin & Stamp Show – Raleigh | Nov. 19, 2022 |

## *NCNA Local Club Outreach & Coordination*

NCNA BOD Directors Bill Graves and Danny Freeman have reached out to local clubs for updated contact and other information, which has been posted on the NCNA website. They are continuing to reach out to local coin clubs and facilitate forums for sharing ideas and forming partnerships. Please feel free to contact Bill or Danny, as they are very interested in your ideas and suggestions.

## *NCNA Website (http://www.NCNA.CLUB)*

The NCNA website is an important tool for sharing information with the membership. Alan Stullenbarger currently serves as our webmaster, with Perry Siegel providing administration for the website. Local club representatives should send all local club contact updates and news to Perry Siegel. Please send all coin and stamp show updates to Bill Graves.

## *NCNA Facebook Page & Other Social Media (www.facebook.com/NCCollector)*

The NCNA Facebook page is another important tool for sharing information with the membership and beyond. Paul Landsberg has taken on Facebook administrative activities for our page, exploring fresh ideas in utilizing other social media to promote our hobby. Please feel free to share your ideas and suggestions with Paul in the social media arena. This is still a fairly under explored area and much more can be done to use it to promote the hobby.

# North Carolina Numismatic Association

## *Officers and Directors* (as of 10/01/2021)

**President:** Greg Cheek • 336.428.2026 • ghcheek@earthlink.net
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## *Appointed Positions*

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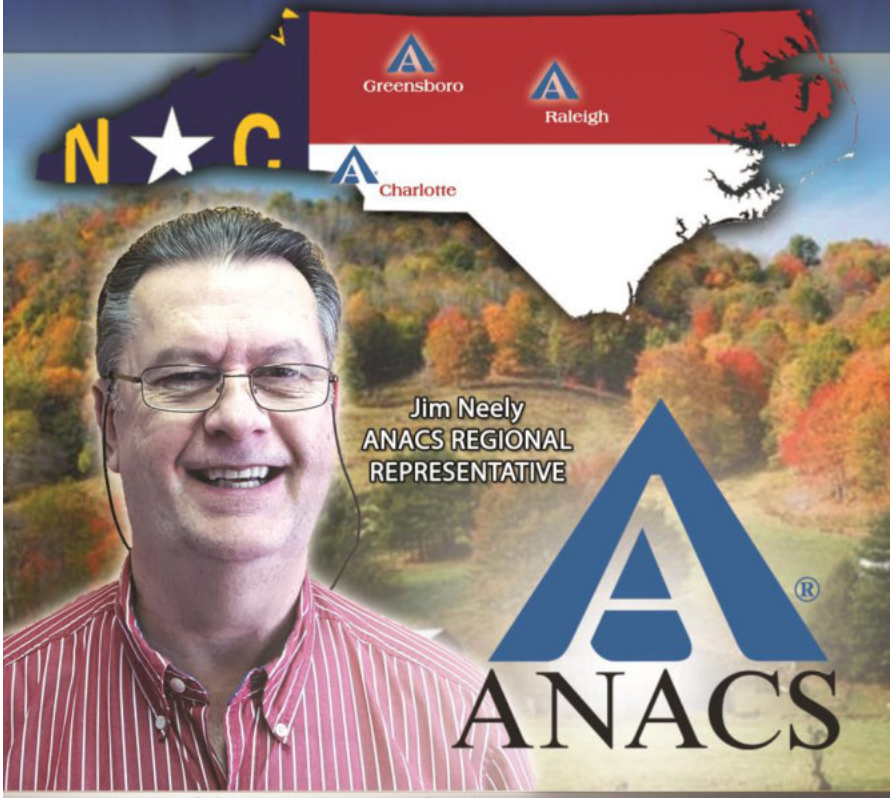


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